

Nation

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Skiping our future

by Will Nicholls

Absenteeism among Cree students was a hot topic at this year's Annual General Assembly in Oujé-Bougoumou. The rates have dropped but still remain high at 19%. Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come said this would always be an issue, "because ... the School Board (and the leadership) can only do so much."

Coon Come thinks parents need to get more involved. "The parents have to decide what's the priority for them. Is it school or is it sports? Because 60 days out of the year they're missing school because you are sending them to a sporting event." He noted some of that could be blamed on residential schools "and the loss of parenting skills" that is needed to raise a child.

Quebec's Education Act is quite clear on school attendance. According to Section 17: *Parents must take the necessary measures to ensure that their child attends school as required.*

Section 18 addresses remedies: *The principal shall ascertain, in the manner determined by the school board, that students attend school regularly.* When a student is repeatedly absent without a valid excuse, it adds, the school shall intervene with the student and parents to reach an agreement on the most appropriate measures to ensure he or she attends classes.

If these measures remain ineffective, the case is to be referred to Youth Protection. This means your child or children could be removed from your care.

I have a few ideas. We could go "old school" and hire a truant officer. They would visit the parent at work or at home to ask if the child is sick or has some reason why they are not in school. Make it conspicuous so people are embarrassed. A few visits to their workplace may see a change in attitudes.

Have the local band council enact a curfew with penalties. Start with a few volunteers assisting the police to round up the children. There would have to be a way for police and parents to coordinate and communicate to make this work. Then the parents who are charged have a choice of assisting the police in rounding up kids breaking curfew for a few nights or spending evenings in jail for the same amount of time.

Yes, that's harsh but tough love may be what is needed to get the school absenteeism rates down. When it affects you directly because your 10-year-old is running around after midnight you will start to pay attention. Truant teens could be given community service under supervision by parents. Surely every community needs a clean-up or beautification here and there?

I guess I'm asking the leadership and the Cree School Board to do more and ensure parents get involved since some of them don't appear to care about their children's future. Education for our youth is not an option. They and our communities deserve a real effort to address this problem. Our future as a Nation depends on it.

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photo by
Amy German

Blueberry season

by Joshua Iserhoff



August is such a busy month for most of us Eeyouch. There's the CNG's annual general assembly and that can be heavy and long but that is democracy at its best.

I am currently sitting at Kuujuarapik Airport waiting for my flight to Chisasibi enjoying my sandwich made with love by Leslie at Leslie's Bakery. If you're in Whap country you must go and grab a bit to eat and support this wonderful wholesome bistro. I guarantee you will be greeted with handshake and smile by local musician Joseph George who is a faithful customer.

Christine Petawabano and I enjoyed ourselves taking selfies as she became my Bo Derek running through the tiny waves along the shore. Not exactly the same picture but it was entertaining! She is still seeking a partner to love, as Michael Chettleburgh mentioned at the opening of the Nishiiyuu Council of Elders' gathering. Some of the elderly single men were eyeing her. Hey, people at any age need some tender loving care.

People throughout Eeyou Istchee tell me that blueberries will fill the land because of all the thunder and rain we've had this summer. Audrey Visitor at the Air Creebec Whapmagoostui counter was munching her Arctic char mixed with blueberries from the Whap hilltop. Anna Bosum of Oujé told AGA delegates about her blueberry farm. What a great idea and I hope it brings money to the community – something to think about, all you EDOs!

As for me, I hope to vacuum some blueberries sometime this summer with my beloved. I know a secret spot.

Most guys know of a secret spot for fishing but I have a blueberry spot! Get your blueberries; they are nutritious and healthy for you!

Speaking of being healthy, at the Elders' gathering, sitting in the back was Melly Sandy (Shecapio) with her nutribullet. I've seen posts on Facebook from her children. This time I got to see her and asked her a few questions about her discovery. She told me that the doctors kicked her diabetes pills to the curb because of her juicing. Her greens, fresh veggies, fruit (she loves her ginger and blueberries mixed) saved her life!

She hasn't popped any pills since. A lot of the Elders were amazed by her story. I told her that she could be an Eeyou poster lady for juicing. And why not? She has a story that we need to hear. A Googoom taking control of her health and doing something about it: now that's cool.

By the time this is out, students across Eeyou Istchee will have returned to their classrooms to learn and to be inspired. So I say to the teachers, welcome back to Eeyou Istchee. To the new ones – welcome! Keep inspiring our kids/youth and always do your best. They depend of you.

Parents: encourage and support your student. To the graduates, I salute you! Keep up the good work and go on to get that university degree. Most importantly, take the time to visit your Elders and listen to them. When you do, bring them blueberries. A kind gesture goes very far!

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Gilded ceremony

Dignitaries officially launch Goldcorp's Éléonore mine

by Jeremy East

news

After years of development and negotiation, a gathering of investors, workers and political leaders finally inaugurated Goldcorp's Éléonore mine last month.

Operations at the site 300 km east of Wemindji have been in full swing since April. The July 30 ceremony highlighted Goldcorp's collaboration with local Crees throughout the mine's development phase. Notably, Cree negotiators and Goldcorp executives praised the contributions of the late Michael Mayappo, the tallyman for the Opinaca region where the Éléonore project is located. From 2006 until his passing in 2012, Mayappo dedicated himself to ensuring that a balance could be reached between Cree traditional activities and mining work in the territory.

At the ceremony, the Cree Nation Government's negotiator John Paul Murdoch unveiled a mural of the tallyman in the site's accommodation complex, which has accordingly been named Camp Michael Mayappo.

"He always encouraged everyone to work together," Mayappo's widow, Louise, told the crowd in Cree. "If he was here today, this is what he would say to us."

An emotional Murdoch talked with *the Nation* about Mayappo's life and his impact on the Éléonore project.

"I don't think the Cree Nation could have had a better ambassador," said Murdoch. "He was an incredibly open person who was very trusting, but also firm. When you're talking about someone from the land, who knows the land, who knows the animals... with Michael you could just feel it. Without him, our negotiations, this agreement, this mine wouldn't have been possible."

Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come hailed the Éléonore project as an economic and environmentally sustainable opportunity for Wemindji.

"Goldcorp recognizes and respects the traditional authority of the tallymen," said Coon Come. "This agreement shows that they recognize the importance of the management of Cree traditional activities on the affected trapline."

Goldcorp's collaboration with the Crees appears to be a departure from the company's controversial history with Indigenous populations in Central America. Human rights groups criticized the company in 2010 over allegations of environmental and cultural abuse in Guatemala. But Cree leaders lauded the Éléonore project as a model for future collaborations between industry and First Nations.

The impact benefit terms reached by Goldcorp and Wemindji are outlined in the Opinagaw Collaboration Agreement. It promotes training, hiring and advancement of Cree workers at the Éléonore mine. Currently, the mine employs 1,265 people, of which 21% self-identify as Aboriginal.

A number of cultural and social programs are in place, including a teepee for employee gatherings. And Murdoch told *the Nation* that local tallymen played an important role in the development of the mine.

"I hope that what people saw here today is that the Cree Nation is an active participant in this project," said Murdoch. "We're pushing this forward, we're going to be part of the standards, the monitoring and the management. It goes beyond simple social acceptability, it's about participation."



John Paul Murdoch unveiling a mural of Michael Mayappo to the Mayappo family.



Cree leadership and Goldcorp executives cut the ribbon to officially open the Éléonore site.



Eastmain's Tim Moses, and the truck he operates.

Nunavik fuel spill quickly contained, says Hydro-Québec

Hydro-Québec is confident that recovered the 14,200 litres of diesel fuel that spilled from its power station in Ivujivik August 1. Responding to questions from *the Nation*, Hydro-Québec media relations officer Christian Garneau forwarded a statement saying, “Hydro-Québec acted quickly to get to Ivujivik to carry out the measures necessary to recover the fuel and clean up and rehabilitate the power plant site. In addition, we quickly communicated with the community, organizations in Nunavik and of course with government authorities.”

While the fuel reached a drainage ditch near the plant, Garneau said that it was a small amount, and that workers were able to quickly recover the spill. Furthermore, he detailed the various means by which Hydro-Québec workers put in place short-term and long-term plans to contain and absorb the oil on land and on water. Though the community reported that the spilled fuel had reached the bay, Garneau said an inspection showed no trace of diesel in the bay or on the banks. A second inspection had been conducted at low tide to determine whether traces of diesel were present, he added.

Speaking to *Nunatsiaq News*, Ivujivik Mayor Peter Iyaituk said, “[Hydro-Québec] is doing a good job cleaning up the land, but the bigger concern is the bay. They say that it’s a floater and it will dissipate, but our concern is that the tide goes up and down every six hours, and brings stuff in and out with it.”

Reached by *the Nation*, Ivujivik Secretary Treasurer Uqittuk Iyaituk said that he put his trust in Hydro-

Québec to clean the spill. “I think they’re doing a great job right now,” he said.

Quebec cuts Women’s Shelter funding

Montreal Native Women’s Shelter director Nakuset said she is reeling after being denied funding this month for several staff salaries. For the last two years, Employment and Social Development Canada provided funds for a family care worker and an addiction worker. This year, Nakuset reapplied for funding for the same two workers plus three outreach workers and was shocked to receive funding for just one outreach worker and only enough cash to rehire the addiction and family care workers on a part-time basis.

“There have been huge funding cuts,” she said. “I thought it would be a shoo-in because ‘Housing First’ is the new emphasis. These were people to work with the shelter to find people housing.”

So it was surprising, she said, to learn that the housing worker would not be funded. “I asked if there was an appeal process. They said if we appealed, they’d have to put all the funding on hold while the appeal happened. But I need to continue the services.”

As a result, Nakuset says she spoke with Quebec’s Aboriginal Affairs Minister Geoff Kelly in May to ask for money, and characterizes her conversation with him as positive and encouraging.

“Kelly said, ‘Sounds good. Send me the dollar amounts.’” She did as requested, then forwarded them to a member of his staff, and in turn to a third staff member who asked for audited financial reports. As the

clock ticked down to decision time, Nakuset said she heard nothing, until finally the third woman called her back to say they were not going to provide the funds she says Kelly was happy to promise. They informed Nakuset that because her budget had a surplus the Shelter should pay for the positions. She countered that her workers hadn’t received raises in several years, and



Montreal Women’s Shelter director Nakuset

that the shelter desperately needed the money to purchase a vehicle.

“She said, ‘Anyway, we don’t have money until 2017, and you don’t really fall under the criteria,’” recalled an outraged Nakuset. “But Kelly seemed like it wasn’t a big deal! So the Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones – the agency that is supposed to help Aboriginal people – is not going to help us. Who am I going to turn to if they’re not going to help us? And she wouldn’t even talk to me in English! She kept replying to me in French.”

The shelter, Nakuset underlines, operates with less than it needs to begin with in order to serve

Indigenous women trying to get off the street – possibly the most vulnerable group in Montreal society. In particular, she notes, the shelter is being forced to cut back on already underfunded programs offered to pregnant women and recent mothers.

“These mothers need this service. They need more than we can give them. I would have looked elsewhere had I known I would have to. Now I have to come up with a Plan B. I can’t rely on Plan A anymore. I’m tired of being patient. The shelter does a lot of work to help the people! Give us money so that we continue to fund the solutions! We need this money.”

Mistissini Youth to be honoured for stand against uranium

This October in Washington, the Nuclear Free Future Award Foundation (NFFAF) will be recognizing Mistissini youth Shawn

Iserhoff, Justice Debassige, Desmond Michel and Kayleigh Spencer and the collective stand against uranium development taken by the Cree Nation as a whole. The four youth took part in an Earth Day march in Montreal, accompanied by some 250 000 people.

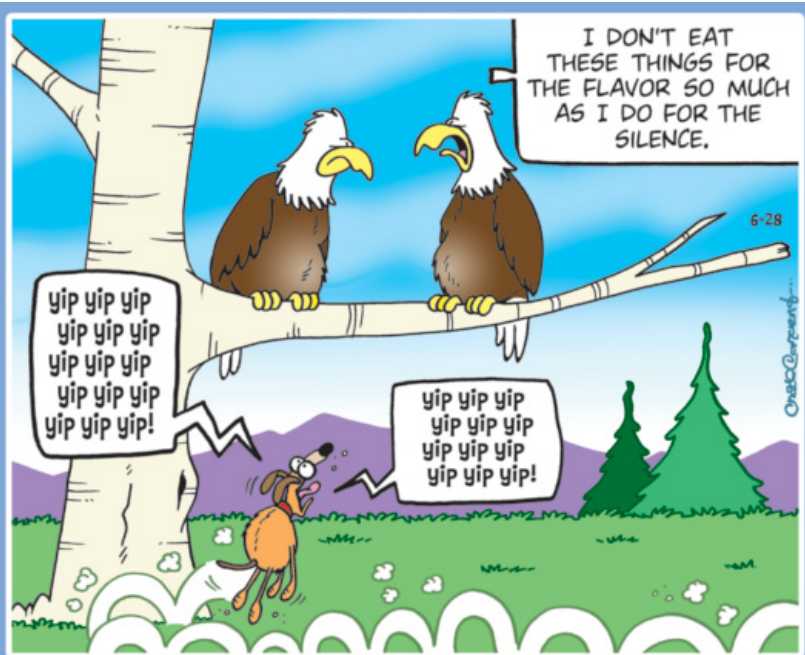
"Our youth represent the future of our Cree communities," said council member and award recipient Iserhoff, "and we will always stand up to any enterprise disregarding our rights and wanting to exploit and destroy our territory."

In August 2012 at their Annual General Assembly, the Grand Council of the Crees adopted a resolution announcing a permanent moratorium on uranium exploitation in Eeyou Istchee. Strateco Resource's Matoush uranium project was the biggest project in Quebec at this time, located right along traditional traplines just 215 km north of Mistissini. The Cree Nation of Mistissini openly disagreed with the project and had full support of the Grand Council and other

Cree communities in their opposition. Thanks to the collective action taken, Strateco's proposition was ultimately rejected by the Quebec government in 2013.

"We are very proud of our youth who took initiative and took an active part in our battle against uranium. Ever since Strateco began exploring our territory with plans to exploit a uranium mine, we have doubled our efforts in mobilizing our community in order to protect the Eeyou Istchee territory from any uranium mining activities. By their actions, these youth demonstrated the importance they attach to preserving our territory and Cree values," said Mistissini Chief Richard Shecapio.

Iserhoff, Debassige, Michel and Spencer will receive recognition for the work to prevent nuclear development alongside youth from Australia, Switzerland, the Marshall Islands and the United States. Massachusetts Senator Edward Markle will be presiding over the event.



AGA 2015

The ups and downs and ins and outs of this year's gathering

by Will Nicholls

Oujé-Bougoumou hosted this year's Grand Council/Cree Nation Government Annual General Assembly in a beautiful setting marred only by the on-and-off rain. More than a few members thought we would be flooded out but thanks to quick thinking, plastic and sand banks it didn't happen. Numerous local entrepreneurs provided home-cooked country food for those interested. I was one of those with an interest. Moose and goose meals hit the spot.

The size of the tent had many organizations scrambling for a place to set up their displays, but it all worked out in the end. On this, noted NDP MP Romeo Saganash, "Having participated in these assemblies I am always amazed at how often certain issues always come back."

Saganash remembers his first job with the Grand Council back in 1981, when the late Billy Diamond hired him to organize the AGA. "So I've seen the same issues come back," he said. "Some of these have been resolved but oth-

ers are still a part of the Cree reality, such as lack of housing and the challenges of education.

"Although the Cree Nation is one of the most developed in this country, we still have huge challenges," said Saganash. "One of the things we have to start thinking about as a Nation is to find ways and means to implement some of the decisions we make at general assemblies."

Every AGA is different, but they all have their ups and downs with a little controversy thrown in for good measure.



Women's shelters

First the ups. The Cree Nation Government (CNG) and the Cree Board of Health and Social Services (CHB) signed a 20-year deal for the creation and operation of two women's shelters. CHB Chair Bella Petawabano-Moses called it a bittersweet moment. She was happy it was finally happening but sad that there is such a need.

Two young Crees from Mistissini spent five days walking from their community to Oujé-Bougoumou to promote healthy living through traditional activities. They hunted and gathered their own food along the way using only an axe to gather wood for heating and cooking. They said activities like this help combat the many chronic diseases Crees are experiencing these days.

Now the controversies. One would have expected protestors to make an appearance over the Baril-Moses Agreement but that didn't happen, as it did in Waswanipi and Quebec City. Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come mentioned the protests prompted him to visit Waswanipi, where he met with the chief, council and the affected trappers.

"When we presented the Baril-Moses case they fully understood," said Coon Come. "As a matter of fact, the trappers said now [they] understand that it was not a closed door. That there's an opportunity here and we are willing to work. and actually directed their chief and council to work with us to try to extend the protected areas. In the protected areas, there would be no mining or forestry."

Salary transparency

Perhaps the biggest controversy involved the Board of Compensation (BOC), CreeCo and Jack Blacksmith. It started when Gordon Blueboy complained to delegates that certain elected board members of the BOC received dividends.

"With that there was a list of employees of CreeCo and their affiliates that received the so-called dividends. They called them dividends, not bonuses. I had an issue with that because dividends are usually for shareholders. I found it odd to call them dividends when they aren't the actual shareholders," said Blueboy.

He said the CNG's legal counsel stated that it was illegal for them to receive dividends, since elected officials to a public body are not entitled to dividends. In fact, in one case the British Columbia Supreme Court ordered band councillors there to pay back dividends they had received.

Meanwhile, another band out west is taking the federal government to court over Canada's Transparency Act for First Nations, arguing that they get all their operational money from their businesses and that releasing that information would harm their ability to do business.

"Personally I feel we have to show transparency and accountability to our people," Blueboy said. "The Cree people need to know what takes place in our Cree entities that we own. I feel our people have the right to know everything about our companies."



He said the documents showed the lowest amount paid out to a director was \$15,000 and the highest was \$60,000.

BOC Chair Jack Blacksmith told *the Nation* he felt that “people are asking the right questions in terms of their investment because they are in charge of those monies.” He said the monies flowed from CreeCo to the BOC and then to the communities.

Asked about his salary, Blacksmith replied, “I told them what my salary was. I told them how many years I have been there. I’ve been chairman of the (BOC) for about 12 or 13 years and on top of that a couple of years as the deputy. It’s been quite an experience to run this organization. I’m glad to see this organization where it is and I hope that people see I am part of that success.”

Blacksmith felt he was targeted, as the salary questions were very personal. “With the BOC there is no problem mentioning salary levels, but CreeCo is a different animal altogether. It’s a business-oriented company and I know the people own that company. At the end of the day, I report to the people on how much this company makes and I don’t know if I should open up as to what my salary is there. I get paid from the BOC and CreeCo. I was a bit of a target in terms of the situation.”

Coon Come was quick to defend Blueboy. “That was very unfortunate that he [Blacksmith] said that. I thought

it was very condescending. I thought it was uncalled for Jack to put Gordon in a situation where he could be embarrassed.”

Coon Come said the issue is one of transparency. “We believe, the members believe, that the chairman of the BOC should declare his salary to the public,” the Grand Chief insisted. “There’s a strong feeling [at the AGA] that the elected officials to the BOC should not receive any form of dividends... The issue is the chairman and the elected officials who are receiving a dividend are sitting on these boards (CreeCo). When they are sitting on these boards elected officials need to be transparent and release that information to the public.”

CDC dispute

Blacksmith feels this goes back to the plans to absorb CreeCo into the Cree Development Corporation (CDC). “At the BOC, we have never opposed the CDC,” he said in his own defence. “As a matter of fact, I was one of the first ones to work with two other people who put a proposition together for the CNG to consider back a few years ago.”

Blacksmith acknowledged allegations being made that the BOC is holding up the merger with the CDC.

“I don’t believe that at all,” he said. “There are monies that are made available already to CDC. I look at the financial statements of the CNG and there’s approximately \$6.9 million indicated in different financial statements sitting there for the CDC. Why can’t you start CDC based on those amounts and work towards a better financial situation for the future? You can’t sit back and say you don’t have the money.”

Income Security Program

Another issue brought up by Philip Awashish was the Income Security Program. Coon Come said, “I know it’s a touchy issue. Philip Awashish was very blunt saying some people were lying on their calendar, lying on reporting their days, lying on whether they were even in the bush. He never said those words to the Council/Board so I was a little shocked, but Philip is an Elder, a signatory to the agreement. He can get away with it, but it’s a serious issue. It’s one of the best programs we have.”

Coon Come also added, “...that the communities want the entities to go to their communities to present their reports so they can address their issues at a community level. Here we’re presenting a global picture.”

When I asked, “Who do you think was the hottest delegate at the AGA this year?” Coon Come responded, “Besides me?” and laughed.

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RESOLUTIONS

Resolution: Incentives paid by the Cree Regional Economic Enterprises Corporation (CREECO)

WHEREAS community members are elected through local elections to represent their community at the Cree Nation Government Board of Compensation (BOC) and act as public elected officials;

WHEREAS the BOC members are only entitled to receive Board fees as elected officials as ratified at a meeting of the members of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Nation Government Annual General Assembly currently established at the same rate as the Board/ Council of the GCC(EI)/CNG;

WHEREAS the BOC appoint from its own membership through and internal election to the Board of Directors on CREECO, its wholly owned subsidiary.

WHEREAS this appointment or election to the Board of Directors of CREECO does not change the public elected official nature of these individuals nor their obligations to the Cree Nation to manage the public funds and assets of the Cree Nation a transparent manner for the benefit of the Cree Nation;

WHEREAS the Cree Nation Government (CNG) has been made aware that the Board of Directors of CREECO and its employees have received incentive payments;

WHEREAS the Board of Directors of CREECO have not disclosed the policy, program or resolution authorizing the amounts paid as incentives to the board members and employees, to the BOC as shareholders or to the Cree Nation for whose benefit the assets and funds are to be administered;

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Nation Government 41st/38th Annual General Assembly demand that the Board of Directors of CREECO disclose the entire amounts and the rational for these amounts paid as incentives to its employees as well as the names of the individuals who received such amounts, further, that the incentive policy for the employees of CREECO be disclosed to the Board of Compensation and to the Cree Nation Government;

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Nation Government 41st/38th Annual General Assembly demand that the Board of Directors of CREECO disclose the entire and the rational of the amounts paid as incentives to its Board members and as well as the names of the individuals who received such amounts.

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Nation Government 41st/38th Annual General Assembly that demand that the Board of Directors of CREECO cease this apparently undocumented practice of incentive payments to its Board of Directors and to develop



a policy for incentive payments to its employees, that this policy be based on company performance and that this policy be made public to the CNG.

Resolution 2015-10: Access to Nutritious Foods

WHEREAS the prevalence of chronic diseases is high in Eeyou Istchee;

WHEREAS the rate of food insecurity is high in Eeyou Istchee;

WHEREAS the proportion low-income families is high in Eeyou Istchee;

WHEREAS access to affordable nutritious foods is essential to promote health, attain food security and prevent chronic diseases;

WHEREAS the CBHSSJB's project on access to nutritious foods in the stores of Eeyou Istchee showed that

1) The cost of basic nutritious foods is higher in Eeyou Istchee than in any other studied region of Quebec;

2) Nutritious food choices are limited in certain communities;

3) Having access to a variety of low-cost nutritious foods is difficult, especially in smaller stores; and

4) Eating well seems to be out of reach for low-income and single-parent families. The cost of the

Nutritious Food Basket represents about 80% of the revenue of low-income families;

WHEREAS the CNG recognizes that, as a nation, we need to ensure that nutritious foods are available and affordable to all Eeyou families;

WHEREAS the issue of access to nutritious foods in Eeyou Istchee is complex and the collaboration of multiple local, regional, provincial and national stakeholders is required to improve access to nutritious foods;

WHEREAS store managers of Eeyou Istchee have provided numerous solutions to improve access to nutritious foods in our stores, including:

1) the increase of demand by promoting healthy food choices to customers

2) the improvement of store size, equipment and layout

3) the adoption of management practices that support healthy and affordable food choices

4) the supply of affordable nutritious foods

5) the reduction of the impact of transportation costs on the price of nutritious foods;

WHEREAS the CNG and CBHSSJB are committed to improve access to nutritious foods for the

families of Eeyou Istchee in order to improve their health and well-being;

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Nation Government 41st/38th Annual General Assembly request that the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Nation Government support the CBHSSJB in its efforts to improve access to nutritious foods for families of Eeyou Istchee;

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 41st/38th Annual General Assembly recommend the establishment of a joint CNG-CBHSSJB, committee be formed to address the issues related to access to nutritious foods in Eeyou Istchee.

Resolution: Creation of a New Region of the Commission de la Construction du Québec and Adaptations Corresponding to the Realities of Eeyou Istchee James Bay

WHEREAS the Regime of the Commission de la Construction du Québec (hereinafter referred to as "CCQ") requires adaptations to ensure that Cree and citizens of the Eeyou Istchee James Bay region benefit from the CCQ Regime and



participate in the construction industry, in manner that does not discriminate against the region;

WHEREAS the Crees and Jamesiens and the CCQ have undertaken negotiations on the application of the CCQ Regime in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay region and identified specific issues to be addressed;

WHEREAS a James Bay Eeyou Istchee Regional Government has passed a Resolution supporting the creation of a new CCQ region which consolidates the Cree communities of Eeyou Istchee in to one region with the necessary adaptations to ensure that the Cree and citizens of the regime becoming meaningful participants in the CCQ regime and the construction industry in Quebec as a whole;

IT IS RESOLVED:

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Nation Government 41st/38th Annual General Assembly support the establishment of one region for Eeyou Istchee to facilitate the unity of the Cree Nation with the necessary adaptations to ensure that the Cree can participate in the CCQ regime and construction industry in a meaningful way free from discrimination.

Resolution: Recommendations of the Federal Truth and Reconciliation Commission

WHEREAS the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada was created with the goals to:

(a) Acknowledge Residential School experiences, impacts and consequences;

(b) Provide a holistic, culturally appropriate and safe setting for former students, their families and communities as they come forward to the Commission;

(c) Witness, support, promote and facilitate truth and reconciliation events at both the national and community levels;

(d) Promote awareness and public education of Canadians about the IRS system and its impacts;

(e) Identify sources and create as complete an historical record as possible of the IRS system and legacy. The record shall be preserved and made accessible to the public for future study and use;

(f) Produce and submit to the Parties of the Agreement a report including recommendations to the Government of Canada concerning the IRS system and experience including: the history, purpose, operation and supervision of the IRS

system, the effect and consequences of IRS (including systemic harms, intergenerational consequences and the impact on human dignity) and the ongoing legacy of the residential schools;

(g) Support commemoration of former Indian Residential School students and their families in accordance with the Commemoration Policy Directive;

WHEREAS the Truth and Reconciliation released its final report on June 2, 2015 after six (6) years of deliberation and contains numerous recommendations and actions related to the goals for which it was created;

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Nation Government 41st/38th Annual General Assembly do not accept that the Government of Canada is not required or obligated to respond or address any of the recommendations or imperatives identified by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada;

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Nation Government 41st/38th Annual General Assembly hereby recommend that the Cree





CWEIA 8th Annual General Assembly

September 4-6, 2015

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Mrs. Manon Richmond, cell.: 418-770-9742
or via email coordinator@cweia.ca

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Nation Government undertake a review of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Final Report to identify those measures that are essential to the well-being or restoration of the Cree Nation and use all methods possible to ensure that the Government of Canada is held accountable for the recommendations and findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

Resolution: Broadback River Watershed Protected Area

WHEREAS the Cree Nation Government, local governments of Eeyou Istchee has identified areas that they wanted to be afforded special status such as "Protected Area" status;

WHEREAS the Cree Nation Government and the Cree First Nation of Waswanipi have identified an area called the "Broadback River Watershed" which they have worked to have categorized as a protected area due to its importance as a one of the few remaining mixed forests in Eeyou Istchee and is critical for the survival of the woodland caribou;

WHEREAS the Cree Nation Government has succeed in the recent resolution to the Baril-Moses Agreement Dispute to secure over 9,000 square kilometres as protected areas and establish other forums where the Cree Nation may continue its efforts to expand the amount of protected areas in Eeyou Istchee;

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Nation Government 41st/38th Annual General Assembly recommended to the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Nation Government to continue using all its efforts in coordination with the affected communities, such as the Waswanipi First Nation, to have the "Broadback River Watershed" or other areas identified by the other communities of Eeyou Istchee, designated as a protected area.

Resolution: Management of Contracts and Business Opportunities Related in Eeyou Istchee

WHEREAS Cree entrepreneurs of Eeyou Istchee continue facing challenges and obstacles when trying to access contracts or other business opportunities;

WHEREAS Section 28 of the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement contains specific provisions related to the legal requirement to adapt regimes or procurement procedures to favor local entrepreneurs, for governments from the local, regional, provincial and federal level and their agencies, including the Cree School

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Board and the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay;

WHEREAS the Cree Nation Government through the New Relationship Agreement Between the Government of Quebec and the Crees of Quebec and the New Relationship Agreement Between the Government of Canada and the Crees of Eeyou Istchee determines how to allocate and manage the great majority of funds that are used for infrastructure and public works and is therefore in position to take the lead by example on how Section 28 of the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement should be interpreted;

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Nation Government 41st/38th Annual General Assembly hereby supports and recommends the initiative of the Cree Nation Government to negotiate an Agreement, primarily with all the Communities of Eeyou Istchee, on how as a governments, funds should be managed to ensure the maximization of funds for the benefit of the Cree Nation and then ensure access to business opportunities for legitimate Cree enterprises;

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Nation Government 41st/38th Annual General Assembly requires that the Cree Nation Government specifically report at the 42nd/39th Annual General Assembly on all efforts taken to address the proper implementation of Section 28 as it pertains to contracts and business opportunities for Cree entrepreneurs.

Resolution: Salary of the Chairperson of the Cree Nation Government Board of Compensation

WHEREAS the heads of the Cree Nation Government and the Cree Nation Government Board of Compensation are public elected officials of the Cree Nation Government and the Grand Chief/Chairperson, Deputy Grand Chief/Vice-Chairperson of the Cree Nation Government have revealed their salaries through the tabling of financial statements at the 2014/2015 Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Nation Government;

WHEREAS the Chairperson of the BOC has released his salary for the 2014/2015 fiscal year as one hundred and ninety seven thousand (\$197,000.00);

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Nation Government 41st/38th Annual General Assembly recognize and confirm the salary of the Chairperson of the Cree Nation



Government shall not exceed one hundred and ninety seven thousand (\$197,000.00);

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Nation Government 41st/38th Annual General Assembly quest that the Chairperson of the Cree Nation Government also reveal the remuneration for the office in the preceding four (4) years.

Resolution: Establishment of Cree Treatment Centres

WHEREAS the Crees at times need treatment and healing from alcohol and drug abuse or other social and personal issues;

WHEREAS Crees, some who are unilingual, who seek treatment must leave their communities for other locations where the Cree language and culture is not prevalent.

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Nation Government 41st/38th Annual General Assembly recommend that the Cree Nation Government and Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay make efforts to build a Treatment Centre in Cree territory and to be operated and maintained in the Cree language and where Cree culture will be a factor in the treatment.

As children ran through the fountains at Montreal's Place des Festivals, gleefully dancing around a sacred turtle sculpture beneath a sky-high artistic representation of a teepee, A Tribe Called Red mix pulsed the speakers and local Native artisans flogged their wares. This was the scene at the First Peoples Festival in the middle of a bright, beautiful and breezy August 1 as the masses began to pour into the festival centre and gear up for the NuestroAmericana Friendship Parade.

A recent addition to this 25-year-old festival, the parade brought out more than 700 people from many ethnic groups from across the city and the world in the spirit of togetherness and unity.

Running down Sainte-Catherine Street, the event culminated in a major celebration at the festival site where more artists took to the

stage to perform Indigenous dance and songs. The likes of DJ Madeskimo, throat singer Sylvia Cloutier, Richard Desjardins and Florent Vollant made it to the outdoor stage for free shows. Hundreds of films from around the globe were screened and art of all kinds, from street theatre to soft stone carvings, was exhibited. Adding to the sights and sounds were the succulent scents of game sausage and corn grilling over special pits.

Marie-Christine Dufour, the executive producer of an upcoming installation piece in the Old Port, was recruiting people to participate in a photography exhibit called "One Hundred Face."

"We are working on a project with Michel Lemieux and Victor Pilon, who are two of Montreal's best known visual artists, to do a project throughout Old Montreal," said Dufour. "For part of this project we will have one area that will proj-

ect the faces of Montrealers, with 100 faces that will be projected through an alley."

She had met all sorts of people from as far afield as Chicoutimi and San Diego.

Providing their own route to healing, two members of the Mayan Nation were showcasing traditional healing through ancient rites in one of the canvas teepees set up for more private activities at the festival.

"What we do is a purification ceremony for people who need it," said 12 Owls (the translation of his name). Having also been a fire keeper for 28 years, he said that his whole life has been about helping those in need.

"There are people who need this because they feel bad and so with a little bit of cleaning they can feel a bit better when they leave the teepee. There are all kinds of people who have come in here for this," said 12 Owls.

Vicki Okpik, the designer behind Nunavik Creations (a Makivik

Festive sights and sounds

A snapshot of Montreal's largest Indigenous festival

by Amy German



Corporation endeavour), offered a sampling of exquisite Inuk designs.

"We were invited to come to this festival and have been in the fashion design business since 2000, making sealskin and fabric coats along with other accessories and fine leather goods. We have two workshops – one in the north and one in Montreal – and we have five full-time seamstresses," said Okpik.

Showcasing mitts, purses, bags and coats that ran from the

hundreds into the thousands, the kiosk drew a crowd looking to lap up the lavishness of their creations.

At another table that featured local goods, a woman from Kahnawake named Rita was displaying her handicrafts for sale alongside Cree artisan Robie Nicholls.

Rita said that she had been coming to the festival for the past eight years and enjoyed it very much.

"A lot of people will come up to me and ask me what my handicrafts mean. What does this doll mean or what does this bird mean? And, I tell them, nothing, it is a bird," said Rita.

For his part, Nicholls had been invited to bring his work from Mississini. "This is a really fun festival. I love the people and the drumming and that people come here from all over the world to see what Native people do. Plus there are some really cute ladies here," he said with a smile.



A decade of success

Waswanipi's Vocational Training Centre celebrates 10 years of graduates

by Amy German

Responding to the needs of the rapidly developing employment market within Eeyou Istchee, it has been a full decade since the Cree School Board opened the Sabtuan Regional Vocational Training Centre in Waswanipi to give Crees the skills they needed to realize their dreams.

"After many years of negotiations and representations on the needs, the Quebec government proceeded to approve the project despite the lack of support from the federal government which is obligated to provide funding for 75% of the costs," explained Pierre Desjardins, Director of Sabtuan Adult Education Services.

"The decision to locate the facility in Waswanipi followed the receipt of proposals from many communities and one of the key considerations at the time was access by other community residents to the facility. The project included the centre, a student residence accommodating 50 students and eight houses for employees recruited from outside the community."

According to Desjardins, while the facility originally started out by offering programs like hairdressing and secretarial studies to respond to the needs of local students, heavy equipment programs were later offered to attract students from other communities who wanted to take advantage of mining development and a construction boom.

Since it opened a decade ago, the school has offered a wide range of programs including: Accounting, Auto Mechanic, Carpentry, Cabinet Making, Computing Support, Drilling and Blasting, Fire Arms Repair, Food and Beverages, Health Assistant and Nursing, Heavy Equipment Mechanic, Home Care Assistance, Northern Heavy Equipment Operator, Northern Building Maintenance, Ore Extraction, Plastering, Plumbing and Heating, Professional Cooking, Small Vehicle Mechanic, Starting A Business, Surveying and Topography and Trucking Class I.

And, all of these programs have been offered meeting the guidelines and parameters of provincial standards so that graduates leave with an official diploma from the Ministry of Education (MELS) known as a Diploma of Vocational Studies (DVS), or in French, Diplôme d'études professionnelles (DEP).



As a result, because these programs have been adapted to First Nations communities using the provincial standards, Desjardins said there is actually interest from other First Nations looking to access the Cree facilities.

"There has been interest from other First Nations in accessing programs at the facility, so we are review-

ing our capacity to work with other groups to assist them,” he said.

According to Desjardins, while the past decade has seen a great deal of program development, there is more to come.

While gaining employment skills has changed hundreds, if not thousands, of lives in Eeyou Istchee, the demand for other training centres is increasing.

While Waswanipi will be developing more training specializations for its facility, a new one is about to open in Wemindji and more local program development is underway.

“We need facilities in all the communities and following negotiations and understandings reached between the Grand Chief, the premier and CSB officials with MELS, the School Board submitted plans for a new facility in Mistissini and for the reconstruction of the high school in Chisasibi to accommodate, in part, an Adult Learning and Vocational Programs facility. We are optimistic to secure approvals for



these projects since they support the Plan Nord initiatives and will help ensure Cree access to Plan Nord driven jobs,” said Desjardins.

As for Waswanipi, a day of celebrations is in the works that will benefit not only the facility but also the many people who have worked behind the scenes to ensure that Crees are empowered to take advantage of their own job market.



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Osheaga 2015 knocks it out of the park

Montreal festival's 10th anniversary is
friendly, exciting and well run

by Josh Grant



Another crazy weekend at Montreal's Osheaga music festival came and went from July 31 to August 2 as Evenko celebrated the 10th anniversary in Parc Jean-Drapeau, where the event has grown into one of the biggest, most diverse musical experiences in Canada. Star-struck teenagers, flower princesses, care-free hippies, unabashed "bros", city wslickers, tourists, families and young adults alike – Osheaga caters to them all.

To the relief of many, Osheaga was one of the first major festivals to ban Native headdresses on their grounds this year and organizers did impressive work handling crowds and managing artists over the course of three sun-soaked days in urban Montreal. Issues like cultural appropriation, overcrowding and access to food and water stations that have plagued the festival in the past were all suitably addressed. A notable and welcome difference on the island this year was the

atmosphere of openness and camaraderie shared amongst festival-goers, artists and staff.

As the cliché for these types of events goes, it was good vibes, man. The positive energy culminated in a poignant moment on Sunday afternoon when "Edward Sharpe" (singer Alex Ebert of Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros) teamed up with security to help a group of friends crowd surf their wheelchair-bound buddy

onto the main stage. While Ebert and his band were criticized by some for their psychedelically enhanced performance, an epic wheelchair crowd surf followed by their rendition of the song *If I Were Free* as "Frank and Victor" swayed on stage with their friends brought literally thousands of people to tears.

While schedule conflicts make for tough decisions on Osheaga's diverse musical offerings, the festival does a good job of spreading things out over the course of the weekend. Friday saw a smattering of indie rock, hip-hop and electronic dance music (EDM), including Grace Potter, Bahamas, The Kills, The Decemberists, Florence + the Machine, Run the Jewels, Schoolboy Q and A Tribe Called Red.

The latter delivered an explosive set, mixing traditional First Nations singing, colourful imagery and the heavy bass that many festival-goers crave. The three DJs came out on stage clad in bandan-



nas as animated stills from old Disney movies flashed on stage. The images of their live show highlight the stereotypes of First Nations people that exist in mainstream media, and the crowd at the Piknic Electronik stage jumped and bounced to the beat. At one point during their performance, Montreal rapper The Narcicyst and hip-hop legend Mos Def (aka Yasiin Bey) joined the group for a tandem performance, spouting hip-hop lyrics over the Tribe's politically charged, innovative sounds.

Saturday kicked off on the main stage with the Rural Alberta Advantage followed by young up-and-comers Xprime, hailing from Welland, Ontario. The indie rock continued with an explosive set from Canadian celebrities the Arkells. The Hamilton band's passionate, driving, emotional pop songs with punch had the crowd singing, dancing and shoulder riding, setting the tone for the rest of the day.

"Arkells had an amazing set even though it was early on in the day," said fan Eric Kuper when asked to sum up the highlights of his weekend. "Weezer was a blast from the past and it was my second time seeing Florence + the Machine, Of Monsters and Men and Alt-J. It was great hearing them perform the new music they've released since last time I saw them at Osheaga.

"The little bit of rain we had only made the Mos Def show on Saturday even wilder but the craziest moment was probably when we got charged by a groundhog while resting for a minute on Friday. He ran right over my girlfriend's legs while we were just sitting there," Kuper said with a laugh.

Following the Arkells on Saturday afternoon, The Narcicyst and Yasiin Bey returned to perform an entire set in lieu of the controversial rapper Action Bronson who



couldn't make it over the Canadian border. The day continued with St. Vincent's spacey rock sounds and eclectic stage antics, a pounding, bouncy electronic DJ set from the 20-year-old Dutch producer Oliver Heldens, a hip-hop head's dream performance by Nas and appearances by many other talented and popular acts, including Patrick Watson, Kygo and Weezer.

It's safe to say that Saturday was the climax of the festival with so many amazing artists, bands, DJs and rappers performing back-to-back that it was difficult just to keep up. Running from stage to stage, trying to keep track of friends and push into crowds to catch a glimpse of the artists on one's to-do list makes for a frantic festival, but the vast majority of those present were smiling, laughing and moving to the music.

Saturday's fast-paced, talent-laden line-up was capped off by Kendrick Lamar's masterful performance, once again featuring the iconic Yasiin Bey (Mos Def still seems to roll off the tongue better). Lamar is at the peak of his career and his game, and his music is made for the people, by the people. It

deals with the realities of life in the 21st century while still finding time to enjoy life and groove to its rhythm. "K-Dot" is arguably one of the greatest rappers ever to pick up a mic.

As short films depicting life in the ghettos of Los Angeles flashed across a massive screen behind the stage, Lamar and his band hammered out hip-hop songs from his entire discography that had a massive crowd on the main stage jumping, bobbing and screaming along to his lyrics.

"I just wanna make sure the vibe's right, okay?" he yelled into the mic, urging the crowd to take a break and catch their breath in between songs. "I just want that positive energy right now."

Big crowds, big names, memorable performances, and a weekend well spent with friends listening to some of the best singers, songwriters, rappers, musicians, DJs and artists in the world. All this in an upbeat, open environment, thanks to the excellent coordination and execution by the people at Evenko. Osheaga 2015 was certainly one of the best yet.

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JOB DESCRIPTION

Human resources

- supervise directly the activities of the manager(s) and employees, motivating, coaching and providing advice.
- ensure that the staff is competent, identifying their shortcomings and providing the training and coaching to improve their knowledge and performance.
- provide support to sales associates during peak periods or when scheduling conflicts arise. establish priorities and delegate tasks to the manager(s) for the next morning.
- identify clear objectives to the manager(s).
- hire personnel and uses disciplinary measures when required.
- hold weekly meetings with the manager(s) and employees.

Store sales and increase profitability

- provide guidelines for pricing.
- make decision concerning price reductions.
- plan for displays, special sales/merchandising activities.
- ensure customer needs are met, complaints are resolved and services are quick and efficient.
- with the help of the manager(s), consistently seek to increase product variety to boost sales, earnings and customer service.
- improve store layouts with the help of the manager(s), .
- verify that the store is clean, sanitized and orderly and takes action if necessary.
- brief the manager(s) on the general situation of the store and discusses what has to be done.
- "walk the floor" regularly.

Inventory management

- be responsible for all food ordering in collaboration with the Assistant Store Manager and all other department managers.
- ensure that the product rotation, expiry date verification, shelf labeling and front facing activities are performed regularly and efficiently.
- keep track of the inventory.

Store policies and regulations

- ensure that company policies are followed by everyone and takes action if needed.
- ensure that all MAPAC regulations are followed by all personnel.
- contribute in solving the manager(s) /employee's work related problems.
- ensure that the employees work in a safe environment and that they follow safety related rules.
- fill in for the manager(s) as required.
- open and close the store when required.
- undertake any other related tasks as requested by the Board of Directors.

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

Education and Certification

- College or University degree or certification
- Experience
- Three to Five Years relevant experience

All interested candidates who possess the qualifications and requirements are to submit their Curriculum to the attention of:

Dale Sherman Salt, President
Waskaganish Business Corporation
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A helping hand

Health Board community organizers are there for the kids

by Amy German

While it may sound like the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay's team of community organizers are there to event plan for the whole community, their role is to ensure the needs of families with young children are being met, says Isabelle Barbeau.

Barbeau is the Planning, Programming and Research Officer for the Â Mâshkûpimâtsît Awash (AMA) team at the Health Board. She heads up the team of community organizers as she was the first-ever community organizer for Mistissini, so she is quite familiar with the confusion over the job title.

"Community organizers don't work with individuals, instead they work with organizations such as the band council, the childcare centres, schools and the women's associations and so it is much different from the other positions held within the CHB," explained Barbeau.

According to Barbeau, community organizers provide expert liaison services, coordinating between different organizations that serve families with young children.

"Their role is to actually develop the collaboration between different organizations to respond to the needs of families. And, when we talk about needs, it is social and health issues that we need to address," said Barbeau.

She gave the example of how the health issues of a young family could be impacted by a social issue like housing, particularly in a situation where multiple families are sharing one home.

"Those who live in overcrowding tend to be more vulnerable to violence and substance abuse, particularly if you already have someone who is a substance abuser in that home. This can influence the whole family and so if you have two or three families living in the same home, all of them will be impacted," said Barbeau.

In this type of instance, a community organizer will look at what is needed and then what kinds of services are available to these individuals to improve their life situation. Once the community organizer has a clear picture of what is happening in each community and who is in need of what, the goal of the community organizer then becomes to mobilize these organizations to sit down together to discuss and identify how they can work together to improve the circumstances of these individuals.

"Together they can also create action plans for what they would like to see done and then follow up with that action plan through evaluations," said Barbeau.

In other instances, community organizers will put together activities or events on a larger scale to target the specific needs of a particular group. She gave the example of how one in Nemaska recently put together a week of activities to promote the roles of fathers and to encourage fathers to do activities with their children.

According to Barbeau, over the last few years the CBHSSJB have been working on hiring community



Isabelle Barbeau, PPRO - A Mashkupimatsit Awash (AMA), Public Health department

organizers for each of the communities and so far there is only one community that is without – a situation she is hoping to remedy soon.

"The main thing we want to get across to the public is that we are just not community event planners or organizers though people are sometimes confused by the title. Sometimes we see community organizers in different events, but that is not because they have necessarily organized that particular event but that they are trying to work with other community partners. What they are there to do is get to know the needs of each of their communities and what kinds of resources they have. I hope for the fall we will be able to have our posters to promote the roles of community organizers," said Barbeau.



We need to be more responsible in harvesting wildlife

by Xavier Kataquapit

We somehow still believe that there is an abundance of wildlife on this planet. The facts show us that this is not the case. Still, all of us, including my people right across this country, tend to think that somehow it is our inherent right to harvest huge amounts of birds, animals and fish even though many of these creatures are thinning out in numbers.

My dad once told me stories of flocks of geese and ducks up on the James Bay coast that were so huge that they blocked out the sun. That was 50 or 60 years ago. Elders up the coast also described huge herds of caribou on the land and many moose. Somehow we convinced ourselves that it would be that way forever and that we all had the right to harvest the animals and birds because we had always done that. It was part of our culture as First Nations people and also a cultural pursuit of many non-Native people.

When governments and their agencies enact regulations concerning the harvesting of these creatures of the land, everybody complained and many of us chose not to believe that a lot of the animals and birds were diminishing in numbers. We just wanted things to be the same forever.

According to the World Wildlife Fund, experts claim that humans are causing a thousand times higher rate of extinction of species than once occurred naturally without the involvement of human beings. Even though we raise billions of domesticated creatures, such as cattle, pigs

and chickens, we still want to head out on to the land and hunt. To do so in a respectful way with the awareness that the moose, caribou, polar bears and all of the big game and birds on this planet are dropping in numbers is still an acceptable idea. However, to think that we have the right to take as many creatures of the land as part of our harvesting past is not acceptable.

Today the world contains a billion sheep, a billion pigs, one-and-a-half billion cattle and 25 billion chickens. Combine that with the fact that there are seven billion people on the planet and that we have created huge tracts of land devoted to agriculture, forestry and all kinds of other resource-development projects, the result is that we are having a huge impact on all wild creatures on Earth.

Recently, the world was shocked when a dentist from Minnesota was part of a hunting party that lured Cecil the lion out of a protective park area so that this beautiful creature could be killed, decapitated and shown off as a trophy. Trophy hunting still takes place in Africa and many parts of Asia because there are wealthy hunters willing to pay the price. The hunts are rarely sporting events as the animals are more often than not merely set up to be shot. All this even though we know that most of the big game animals of Africa and Asia are threatened species.

Most of our planet's large creatures went extinct soon after the coming of man. It is estimated that when humans first arrived in North

America between 14,000 and 16,000 years ago, 34 out of 47 types of large wild mammals went extinct. In South America with the arrival of humans that number was estimated to be 50 out of 60 type of large mammals. Some of these included large cats, giant ground sloths, camels, horses, giant rodents and mammoths. In addition, thousands of smaller species that relied on these larger animals also disappeared.

If we want future generations to still be able to hunt or at the very least to see animals and birds in the wild, we have to change our attitude. It could very well be that by the end of this century we will only be able to see these animals and birds in zoos or special parks. I understand, more than most, the thrill of the hunt. I have lived for long stretches on the land, traveled the waterways of the far north and hunted from the time I was a child. However, I also understand that as First Nation people we have a very fresh and special relationship with the animals and the land.

A hundred years ago my people depended on the land and her creatures for survival and we were very aware of our responsibility to care for the land, and to respect and honour the lives of any creature we harvested for food, clothing or tools. At this point, all of us must realize where we are in the history of this planet and that means we have to make better choices when it comes to understanding our role in the extinction of the creatures of our Mother Earth.

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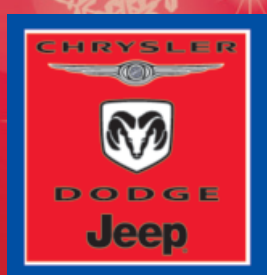
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